

SN. 09/599,823

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:008

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are now pending in this application for which applicant seeks reconsideration.

Amendment

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 12 have been amended to correct an apparent oversight in the preamble, namely correctly reciting that a plurality of image forming devices have a plurality of functions relating to image formation, rather than the image forming system having the functions. See the preamble of claim 3. Claims 13-15 have been amended to recite "a plurality of image forming apparatuses" in the preamble to provide antecedent basis for "said plurality of image forming apparatus," thus removing the informality identified by the examiner. Although the term "apparatus" can be read as singular or plural, for clarity, the plural form has been revised as --apparatuses--.

New claims 16-49 have been added to further protect the present invention. New claims 16-21 relate to a method and a storage medium corresponding to claims 13-15. New dependent claims 22-49 depend from original claims 1-12.

No new matter has been introduced.

Allowable Claims

Claims 1-12 have been allowed, and claims 13-15 were indicated to be allowable if the informality identified by the examiner is removed. Applicant submits that claims 1-15, as well as new claims 16-49, are in condition for allowance.

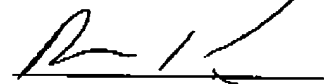
SN. 09/599,823

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:008

Conclusion

As all of the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, the examiner is urged to issue an early Notice of Allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/25/04

Marc A. Rossi

Registration No. 31,923

ROSSI & ASSOCIATES
P.O. Box 826
Ashburn, VA 20146-0826
Phone: 703-726-6020